



HARROGATE
GRAMMAR SCHOOL
EXCELLENCE FOR ALL

21 July 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Class Grouping Information

As the timetable is now almost complete, students will soon begin to learn which groups they will be in next year from their current teachers and via their Timetable on Homework4.

In Years 10 and 11, option subjects are allocated based on the combinations chosen and where they fit together, rather than groups being organised based on ability, for example. In the core subjects, however, the students are organised in specific groupings.

We began 2020-21 with Year 7 being taught in form groups and no targets were issued to students in Year 7. This gave students the chance to settle quickly with the familiarity of similar faces and gave all students the opportunity for a fresh start and a chance to show what they were capable of, without any perceived limits being placed on their potential. This will continue in September 2021 for the new Year 7, with some mixing of these groupings within lessons, after Christmas.

In Years 8 and 9, the groupings are predominantly mixed ability. The number on the class name is simply an organisation feature, rather than an indication of ability level, therefore.

In each subject area, teaching and support staff have access to as much information as possible about each student, to help them to meet the needs of each student within their care.

Please find below more detailed information regarding the groupings in each year group, so you can better understand your child's timetable.

If you have any queries with regards to your child's groups, please contact the relevant Faculty Leader in the first instance.

Yours sincerely

Kirstie Moat
Associate Headteacher

Faculty Area	KS3	KS4
Year 7	<p>In September 2021, students in Year 7 will be taught in their form groups in English, Maths, Science, humanities, and French. They will be in mixed groups for their second language and for practical subjects such as PE, art, design, music and computing. As we move into the second term after Christmas, the groupings will be mixed in subject lessons, whilst form groups will remain the same. From January, the principles below will apply to Year 7.</p> <p>From September 2021, we will be introducing drama within the English curriculum, delivered by our drama specialists. The drama groups will mirror the English classes in Year 7.</p>	
English	<p>Years 8 & 9:</p> <p>Students will be allocated a group, 1-5. Students will be mixed within these groups. The number of the group is not an indication of academic ability or hierarchical. All students access the same curriculum; the same level of academic challenge and appropriate support and are assessed for the same skills.</p> <p>We continuously review and track academic performance, peer interaction and pastoral profiles in order for us to meet the individual needs of every student in English. We will therefore adjust groupings and make changes throughout the year where appropriate.</p> <p>From September 2021, we will be introducing drama within the English curriculum, delivered by our drama specialists. The drama groups will mirror the English classes in Years 8 & 9.</p>	<p>In Year 10 & 11, There are 6 classes on each side of the year. Students in groups 2, 3, 4 and now 5 are of a similar academic profile. Therefore, these groups do not indicate academic ability and are not ranked from higher to lower. Group 1 remains for our highest performing students and group 6 will be for students who need further support and/or who are following the BTEC/Unit Award Scheme pathway and who may take Functional Skills qualifications, alongside their GCSE. Students will follow the same curriculum as every other student and take the same assessments.</p> <p>There is no tiering in the English GCSE qualification, therefore every student is taught to access the same materials and are taught to achieve their full potential.</p> <p>We continuously review and track academic performance, peer interaction and pastoral profiles in order for us to meet the individual needs of every student in English. We will therefore adjust groupings and make changes throughout the year where appropriate.</p>
Maths	<p>In Year 8, each half of the year has the following 5 groups: 2 equal higher ability groups and 3 equal mixed ability groups. Students are placed in these groups based on a combination of assessment results and teacher judgement.</p> <p>In Year 9, each half of the year has the following 5 groups: 2 equal higher ability groups and 3 equal mixed ability groups. Students are</p>	<p>In Year 10, the left side of the year is grouped by ability as follows: Groups 1-2 are working on Higher level GCSE content. Groups 3-4 are equal in ability, working on Higher/Foundation content. Groups 5-6 are smaller groups, equal in ability, and are working on Foundation level GCSE content. The right side of the year is grouped by ability as follows: Groups 1-2 are working on Higher level GCSE content. Groups 3-4 working on Higher/Foundation content, equal in ability. Groups 5-6</p>

	placed in these groups based on a combination of assessment results and teacher judgement.	are smaller groups and are working on Foundation level GCSE content. In Year 11 are set as follows: Groups 1-3 are working towards the Higher GCSE exam. Group 4 is Higher/Foundation. Groups 5 and 6 are equal in ability, smaller groups and are working on Foundation level GCSE content.
Science	In Year 7 and 8 , students are in the same groups for Maths and Science. In Year 7, all students will be taught in tutor groups for the first term, after which time a review will be conducted, to create broadly mixed groupings. In Year 9 , on each side of the year group, there are two equivalent higher ability groups (1, 2), with three equivalent middle groups (3, 4 & 5).	All students are studying for GCSEs in Science. Students either follow the Triple Science or Combined Science (Trilogy) route. Students are grouped in Year 10 based on their science option. They stay in these groups for two years, but some students may be moved for individual reasons. In Year 10 & 11 , in Triple Science – groups 10L/Bi1, 10L/Bi2 and 10L/Bi3 are equivalent groups as are 10R/Bi1 and 10R/Bi2. In Combined Science – all groups on the Right and Left populations are equivalent.
Humanities	In Years 7 & 8 students are taught in their English groups for Geography, History and R.S. In Year 9 students are taught in mixed ability Humanities groups.	In Years 10 & 11 , GCSE students are taught in mixed ability groups for History and Geography dependent on their option choices and in their English groups for R.S.
MFL (French, German & Spanish)	In Year 7 , all students study French, with half doing Spanish and the other half doing German as a second foreign language. In Year 7, students will be in mixed ability groups based on the language to which they have been allocated – either Spanish or German. In Year 8 and 9 , French classes follow the grouping of English. In Spanish and German, students are in mixed ability groups.	In Year 10 & 11 , GCSE students are taught in mixed ability groups dependent upon their option blocks.
Art, Computing, Design, Food & Nutrition, music and PE Drama – Y9	In Years 7 to 9 , these subjects are taught in mixed ability groupings, in slightly smaller classes to support the practical nature of the work. Drama groupings in Y9 follow the practical groupings, with mixed ability groups.	These subjects are all options choices in Years 10 & 11 and groups depend upon the combination of options choices taken, rather than academic ability.